

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
NSC-05 H-01 /057 W
-----019838 151011Z /16

R 142043Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0145
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12383

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EAIR, FR, BQG

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR FRANCE CONSIDERS OPENING OFFICE
IN EAST BERLIN

REF: BONN 6450

1. WE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TOUCH DISCREETLY ON
QUESTION OF POSSIBLE AIR FRANCE DESIRE TO OPEN AN OFFICE
IN EAST BERLIN (REFTEL) DURING MOST RECENT TALK WITH
QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
TIMSIT THIS WEEK.

2. TIMSIT CONFIRMED THAT QUAI REMAINED "UTTERLY
OPPOSED" TO AIR FRANCE'S FLYING TO SCHOENEFELD, AND
FELT THAT THIS BATTLE HAD IN FACT BEEN "FOUGHT AND WON"
LAST NOVEMBER. QUAI, SHE CONTINUED, HAD RECENTLY
HEARD FROM ITS "AMBASSADOR IN BONN" THAT AIR FRANCE
WAS NOW ANGLING FOR AN OFFICE IN EAST BERLIN. IF AND
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WHEN THE NEW ISSUE IS RAISED TIMSIT EXPECTS THAT THE
QUAI WILL OPPOSE, ON GROUNDS THAT AF OFFICE COULD HURT
IMAGE OF WESTERN AIR TIES WITH WEST BERLIN. HOWEVER
AIR FRANCE CASE WILL BE STRONGER IN THIS CASE, SINCE
IT IS ONLY SEEKING OPPORTUNITY TO SELL TICKETS IN EAST
BERLIN FOR FLIGHTS FROM WEST BERLIN. QUAI NEVERTHE-
LESS FEARS THIS IS ONLY CAMEL'S NOSE IN DOOR.

3. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS TO
RAISE THIS ISSUE FORMALLY. TMSIT IMPLIED (ASKING TO
BE PROTECTED) THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO
HAVE US DEMARCHE THIS SUBJECT HERE OR IN BONN GROUP
TO REINFORCE QUAI'S CASE WHEN ISSUE COMES UP.
HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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